

Ricin Toxin (*Ricinus communis*)

Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratory Services (LA SPHL) (504) 568-5371 or (504) 568-8102, 24 Hour Pager (504) 374-6669 or (877) 309-2867

Louisiana Office of Public Health Infectious Disease Epidemiology (800) 256-2748 (24 hours)

Remember that these samples may be highly infective! Extreme caution should be taken in collecting, preparing for shipment and transporting any material suspected of being contaminated with a biological agent.

Specimen Collection and Transport

Acceptable Samples:

Specimens best suited for testing include: paper, powders, soil or mud, water, food, drink, environmental swabs (Dacron, rayon or foam, **NOT COTTON**) and environmental wipes (non-cotton gauze, polyester blend materials).

Do not use glass for collection or transport of samples.

Reporting:

All reporting times are the minimum time. Any individual specimen could take longer.

All samples will be tested using Time Resolved Fluorescence (TRF) and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). Results will be available within 6 hours. All samples with a "Ricin Toxin Detected" result will be referred to CDC for confirmation.